

Thesis Title : Metteyya: the Concept, Belief and Influences in Thai Society
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Abstract

The thesis consists of 3 objectives as: 1) to study the concept of Metteyya in Buddhist Scripture, 2) to analyse the belief and influence of Metteyya in Thai society and 3) to make an analytical study on the path leading to Metteyya's realm.

The result revealed that the Gomatama Buddha had prophesied that Metteyya would be appeared on earth, if men have a life expectancy of 80,000 years. The word 'Metteyya' implied for mother or mittā and another implied for 'mettā' which mean loving-kindness or friendship. Metteyya currently resides in the Tusita Heaven known as Natha Devaputta waiting for descends to the human realm to become Buddha when Dhamma of the present Buddha has been mostly forgotten on Earth. Persons who wish to be born in period of Metteyya, they must develop the ten wholesome course of actions or Kusala-kammapatha or and completed by listening Vamsantara Jataka within a day and utterly refrain from Anantariya-Kamma or uninterrupted and uninteruptible results.

The belief of Metteyya in Thailand has been first found Dvaravati culture (12-16 Buddhist centuries). It has begun from the Buddhist Canon, Commentaries and Anakatavamsa or the future Buddha. The concept of Metteyya has long been developed in the different cultures and historical background. The concept of